

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 04892 020853Z

14-11
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1144
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SEOUL 4892

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, KS, KN
SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS US CONSIDERING BOOST IN DEFENSE OF FIVE
ROK ISLANDS IN YELLOW SEA

1. ON JULY 2, LOCAL PRESS HEADLINED TONGYANG PRESS SERVICE STORY THAT U.S. CONSIDERING TEMPORARY DEPLOYMENT OF FOURTH SQUADRON OF F-4 FIGHTER BOMBERS IN SOUTH KOREA FOR DEFENSE OF FIVE ROK ISLANDS IN YELLOW SEA. AIRCRAFT WOULD COME FROM THAILAND.

2. QUOTING BOSTON GLOBE REPORT BY WILLIAM BEECHER, PRESS REPORTED THAT RESPONSE TO GENERAL STILWELL'S "PLAINTIVE MESSAGE" ON JOINT US/SOUTH KOREAN MILITARY DEFENSE PLANNING FOR ISLANDS HAS BEEN DRAFTED BUT NOT DISPATCHED. STORY REPORTEDLY STATES, IN EFFECT, THAT UNDER MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY OF 1953, US INDEED HAS COMMITMENT TO DEFEND WESTERN ISLANDS, THAT JOINT PLANNING SHOULD PROCEED BUT U.S. TROOPS SHOULD NOT BE INCLUDED AMONG GARRISONS SLATED TO DEFEND ISLANDS.

3. ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESS STORY, GLOBE REPORT
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NOTED THAT ALTHOUGH WASHINGTON ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS

STRESSED US RELUCTANCE TO SEND GROUND TROOPS FOR
DEFENSE OF ISLANDS, AIR SUPPORT WOULD BE ASSURED IN
CASE OF NORTH KOREAN PROBING. LATTER ACTION IS IN LINE WITH
US DETERMINATION TO AVOID MISCALCULATION BY KIM IL-SUNG
AND TO SEND "PROPER SIGNALS" TO NORTH.
SNEIDER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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TAGS: PFOR, KS, KN, US, TW

To: STATE

Type: TE

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